

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13 and 15-19 are currently pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to change the phrase "the inorganic dielectric layer is made of a material selected from a group consisting of SiO₂, Al₂O₃, ZrO₂, AlN, Si₃N₄ and SiC, and a mixture of two or more thereof" to "the inorganic dielectric layer is made of a material selected from a group consisting of SiO₂, Al₂O₃, AlN, Si₃N₄ and SiC, and a mixture of two or more thereof." That is, the terminology "ZrO₂" has been deleted. Claim 11 has been amended in similar fashion

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13 and 15-19 are pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. ENTRY OF RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116:

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response and Request for Reconsideration because:

(a) it is believed that the amendments of claims 1 and 11 put this application into condition for allowance;

(b) the amendments were not earlier presented because the Applicants believed in good faith that the cited prior art did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed; and/or

(c) the amendment places the application at least into a better form for appeal.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in §714.12 that "[a]ny amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." (Underlining added for emphasis) Moreover, §714.13 sets forth that "[t]he Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 5-7, 10-13, 15-17 AND 19 UNDER 35 USC 102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY BUSIO (US 2001/0005115 A1)

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that the inorganic dielectric layer is selected from the group consisting of SiO₂, Al₂O₃, AlN, Si₃N₄ and SiC, and a mixture of two or more thereof. That is, the terminology "ZrO₂" has been deleted.

It is respectfully submitted that the specification may support a broader range of embodiments than the embodiments claimed. Hence, in amended independent claims 1 and 11, the inorganic dielectric layer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of SiO₂,

Al₂O₃, AlN, Si₃N₄ and SiC, and a mixture of two or more thereof, which is not taught or suggested by Busio (US 2001/0005115 A1).

Hence, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Busio (US 2001/0005115 A1). Since claims 2-3, 5-8, 10, 12-13, and 15-19 depend from amended independent claims 1 and 11, claims 2-3, 5-8, 10, 12-13, and 15-19 are not anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Busio (US 2001/0005115 A1) for at least the reasons amended independent claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Busio (US 2001/0005115 A1).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-3, 5-8, 10-13 AND 15-19 UNDER 35 USC 103(A) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER AOKI (US 2003/0038599) IN VIEW OF BUSIO (US 2001/0005115 A1)

As noted above, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that the inorganic dielectric layer is selected from the group consisting of SiO₂, Al₂O₃, AlN, Si₃N₄ and SiC, and a mixture of two or more thereof. As is known to those skilled in the art, different compounds are utilized, different characteristics may be obtained. Simply because a selected compound behaves in a particular way would not be sufficient to suggest that different compounds could be utilized to yield the same or similar characteristics as the first compound. In the period from 1878 to 1880 Thomas Edison and his associates worked on at least three thousand different theories to develop an efficient incandescent lamp. Incandescent lamps make light by using electricity to heat a thin strip of material (called a filament) until it gets hot enough to glow. Thomas Edison recalled: "Before I got through, I tested no fewer than 6,000 vegetable growths, and ransacked the world for the most suitable filament material." When Edison decided to try a carbonized cotton thread filament, he was successful. After further experimentation, by the end of 1880, he had produced a 16-watt bulb that could last for 1500 hours, and he began to market his new invention.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that since neither Aoki (US 2003/0038599) nor Busio (US 2001/0005115 A1) teaches or suggests a substrate assembly for a gas discharge panel, comprising a dielectric layer and a protective layer of MgO being formed in this order on a substrate having electrodes, wherein the dielectric layer is a laminate of an organic polymer dielectric layer and an inorganic dielectric layer in this order from a side of the substrate, the inorganic dielectric layer thereby being between the protective layer and the organic polymer dielectric layer, and the inorganic dielectric layer is made of a material selected from a group

consisting of SiO₂, Al₂O₃, AlN, Si₃N₄ and SiC, and a mixture of two or more thereof, as is recited in amended independent claim 1 and similarly in amended independent claim 11 of the present invention, amended independent claims 1 and 11 of the present invention are patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Aoki (US 2003/0038599) in view of Busio (US 2001/0005115 A1).

Since claims 2-3, 5-8, 10, 12-13 and 15-19 depend from amended independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, claims 2-3, 5-8, 10, 12-13 and 15-19 are submitted to be patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Aoki (US 2003/0038599) in view of Busio (US 2001/0005115 A1) for at least the reasons amended independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable under 35 USC 103(a) over Aoki (US 2003/0038599) in view of Busio (US 2001/0005115 A1).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

V. IDS

An IDS was filed on November 17, 2006.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the IDS.

VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By:

Darleen J. Stockley
Darleen J. Stockley
Registration No. 34,257

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501